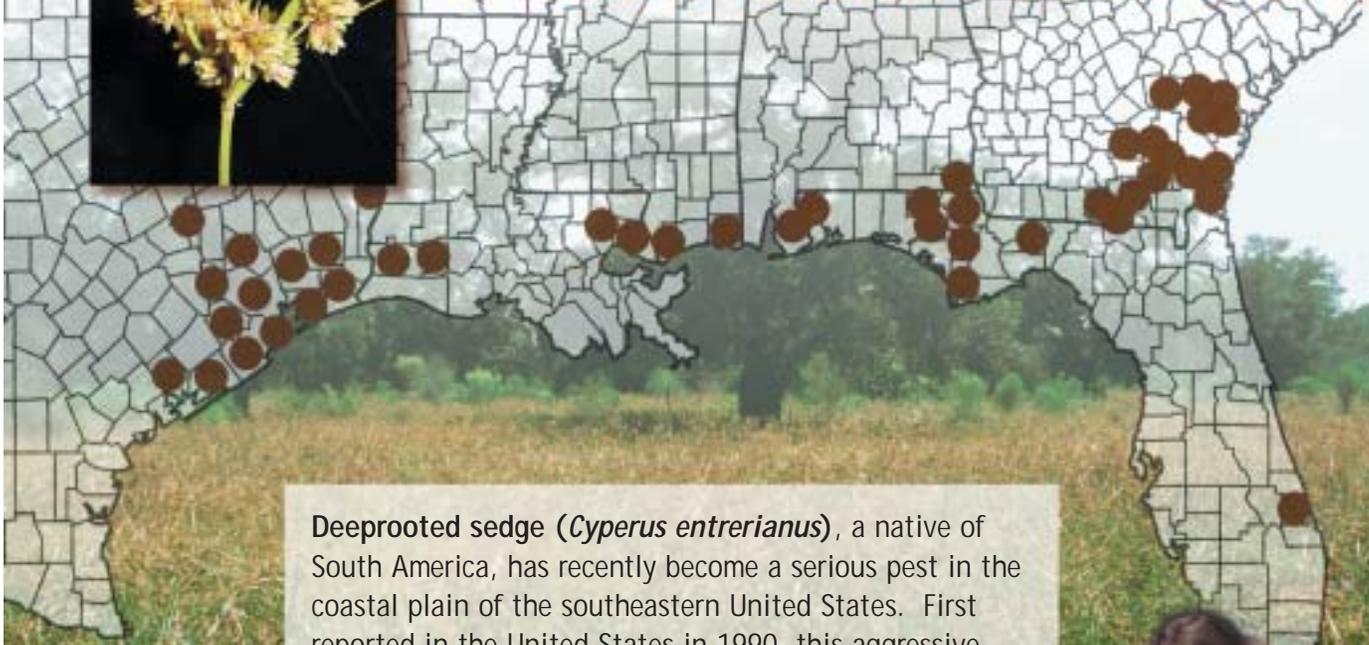


Deeprooted Sedge:

An Overlooked Aggressive Weed in the Southeastern United States



Deeprooted sedge (*Cyperus entrerianus*), a native of South America, has recently become a serious pest in the coastal plain of the southeastern United States. First reported in the United States in 1990, this aggressive weed is now well established in disturbed habitats in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. Flooding, construction equipment, mowing, and soil moving activities, especially along highways, all spread its tiny seeds, resulting in infestations in new areas.

Currently deeprooted sedge is beginning to displace native vegetation even in undisturbed habitats. Without widespread control it will likely continue to spread rapidly, infesting agricultural, urban, forested, riparian, and other natural areas.



Identification and characteristics

Deeprooted sedge can be distinguished from its native relatives, Surinam sedge (*C. surinamensis*) and marsh flat-sedge (*C. pseudovegetus*) by its robust growth form, deeply set thick rhizomes, dark purplish black leaf bases, and glossy leaves.

Large plants can produce a million viable seeds per year, and this aggressive perennial can overwinter in much of the South. Preliminary studies suggest that populations will increase rapidly and potentially spread as far north as Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, and even the coastal plain of Virginia

Prevention and control strategies

- Clean machinery, vehicles, equipment, clothing and other personal items after use in infested areas to avoid spread.
- Suppress seed production by repeated mowing at 2 to 4 weeks intervals.
- Use herbicides to control deeprooted sedge.

Check with the authors or your local Extension agent for advice on herbicide control.

David J. Rosen (USFWS, Houston, TX)
david_rosen@fws.gov

Charles T. Bryson (USDA-ARS, SWSRU, Stoneville, MS)
cbryson@ars.usda.gov

Richard Carter (Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA)
rcarter@valdosta.edu

Colette Jacono (USGS-FCSC, Gainesville, FL)
colette_jacono@usgs.gov

Design by Hannah O'Brien, Pinedale Graphics
pinedalegraphics@comcast.net

